

*Iran*

BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH - ANALYSIS - AUGUST 26, 1980

1. IRAN: SELECTION OF NEW CABINET MOVING SLOWLY

The fight over the Cabinet may be drawn out despite the presentation of a list (we do not yet know which names it includes) to Khomeini by Prime Minister Rajai last Sunday. President Bani Sadr is continuing to try to block some of the nominations, and the clerics themselves do not appear agreed on all of the nominees. The individuals who will finally be chosen are not likely to have had experience in running a government. Rajai's recent comment that dealing with "issues of Islamic ideology" should be the No. 1 priority reinforces our belief that a serious Iranian approach to the hostage question is not imminent.

Rajai's Cabinet is already being attacked on all sides for its presumed incompetence to deal with Iran's pressing national issues. Rajai's personal report last weekend to Khomeini on the progress of the Cabinet selection may have been designed to help deflect these criticisms.

- Bani Sadr has shown reluctance to approve Rajai's choices. The President particularly opposes the possible appointment of Jalal-ed-Din Farsi (an influential member of the Islamic Republican Party and that party's former Presidential candidate) to a major post, such as Defense or Foreign Affairs.
- Farsi himself has publicly complained about Rajai's "doctrinaire approach," explaining that revolutionary zeal was not a substitute for administrative skill in directing the revolution.
- Hasan Ayat, a prominent Islamic ideologue and legislator, commented on August 24 that the Majlis would discuss each individual Cabinet choice. This suggests that the fundamentalists cannot agree among themselves.

The new Cabinet is allegedly selected from "followers of the Imam's path," drawn from "revolutionary institutions (i.e., the komitehs, the Poor People's Foundation, etc.). This fact almost guarantees that it will have no practical experience in government operations.

Rajai has given no indication that he is prepared to return to a more tranquil period following the establishment of his government. In fact, his public comments indicate that he foresees Iran remaining for a long time in the grip of revolutionary fervor.

State Department review completed

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